



# Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XLI

October 2013



## Vietnam War Commemoration at the Avon Public Library

The Avon Free Public Library (Avon Library) is proudly partnering with Avon's Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The commemoration, "Our Service in Vietnam," will feature a gallery exhibit of more than 30 narrative histories of Vietnam veterans from Avon and surrounding towns. The exhibit, "Our Service in Vietnam: In Our Own Words," will begin Saturday, November 2nd and continue through December 31st.

Of the Post's 192 members, 60 are Vietnam veterans. They served as infantrymen, artillerymen, tankers, engineers, medics, pilots, crewmen, Sea-Bees, and combat support personnel with Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force units in all four combat zones of Vietnam. Their living histories tell tales of survival and insights into service during wartime and will be on display in the gallery at the Avon Library through December 31st.

In addition to the gallery exhibit, the VFW will host a community event on November 2nd featuring artifacts such as uniforms, ribbons, equipment, maps, and photos from local veterans. The public will have the opportunity to speak with veterans who will share their personal experiences and tell their stories. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Through the commemoration's exhibits and programs, veterans will try to provide some further insight and perspective on the unique issues of this war.

The commemoration was initiated by Bill Newman, a Vietnam veteran and member of the Avon's VFW Post 3272, as part of the national commemoration to honor Vietnam vets and their families. In March 2013, Post 3272 was designated as a commemorative partner of the 50th Anniversary by the Department of Defense.

Last July, Mr. Newman contacted Avon librarians Tina Panik and Patrice Celli with the idea of collaborating on the project. Ms. Panik, Reference Manager at the Avon Library, was immediately excited by the opportunity to partner with the VFW. "I was fascinated to read these oral histories and wanted to learn more, especially since they're members of our community." Ms. Panik said the library is a perfect location for the commemoration, because it has gallery and exhibit space, a local history room, and a large community room for special events. Jennifer Bennett, the Director of the Senior Center in Avon, will also assist with the commemoration.

Mr. Newman was joined by Jim Hutton, Bob Skeels, and other Post members who wanted to participate in the commemoration. In September, the group put together an artifact display and exhibit in the library's local history room, and a POW/MIA National Remembrance Day Event that featured a flag-raising ceremony with color guard and "Missing Man" service. Major Craig Roland Nobert, of Avon, and SFC Thomas Hepburn Perry, of Canton, were honored in the event.

All exhibits and programs, which are free and open to the public, will be held at the Avon Library; students and children are welcome to attend. The library is at 281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT. Please call the Avon Library at (860) 673-9712 for more information.



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## Construction Update

**School Security Upgrades** – \$240,000 was approved as part of the fiscal year 2013/2014 (FY 14) CIP budget for school security upgrades. As a result, staff and volunteers from Avon Public Schools, Police, Fire, Emergency Management, and Public Works worked together to complete a comprehensive assessment of building security throughout the district. Improvements funded through the CIP include an upgrade of the district-wide radio system, replacement of door security hardware across school sites, and the installation of exterior security cameras, audible alarms, and annunciator panels in the schools. Collectively, these improvements will enhance the safety of both students and staff alike in all of the Avon school sites. A portion of the project cost will be reimbursed by the State's School Security Grant Program.

**Road Improvements** – The FY 14 CIP budget included more than \$600,000 for road improvements. This amount is twice what was included in the prior year's budget. So far this year, improvements have been made to Talcott Notch, Stonefield Road, Bayberry Hill Road, Haynes Road, Springbrook Road, and Deer Run. Subject to available time and funding, DPW may once again oversee crack sealing on a number of miles of roadway prior to the end of the current construction season. This technique extends the useful life of roadways by "sealing" small problems, before they become big problems, until such time as fuller rehabilitation can occur.

**New Fueling Station at DPW** – The approved FY 14 CIP budget includes \$90,000 (year three of five) for the continuation of this State mandated project, which brings total funding up to \$250,000 (of a projected \$450,000). Once the new, above ground tanks are installed and operational, the focus of this project will shift to the removal (and possible remediation) of existing underground tanks and fueling stations. To date, the

concrete pads and conduit to wire the new, above ground fueling station at the Public Works Garage (Arch Road) have been installed and the tanks have been ordered. It is anticipated that the new fueling station will be operational before the end of the current construction season.

**Sycamore Hills** – Funding in the amount of \$40,000 was included in the FY 14 CIP budget for tennis and basketball court repair and resurfacing at Sycamore Hills, including replacement of basketball hoops. The project is being managed by DPW and should be complete by the time this newsletter goes to print.

**Village Center Streetscape Improvements** – If you've driven along Simsbury Road past the BOE Annex and Sperry Park recently, you may have noticed the heavy machinery at work on the east side of the road. This is



related to the State's Small Town Economic Assistance Program funded project to extend sidewalks and granite curbing from Route 44 to Fisher Drive and the Rails-to-Trails connection. In addition to sidewalks and curbing, the scope of work includes realignment of the BOE driveway with Woodford Avenue, elimination of underutilized BOE overflow parking, removal of obsolete chain link fencing, and various site-work improvements. This short (but important) extension of the sidewalk system will make Avon's commercial center more accessible to cyclists and pedestrians on the trail as well as patrons of Sperry Park.

**Water Main Replacement (Avon Water Company)** – Work is underway to replace a portion of water mainline between Route 10 and Route 44 along Woodford Avenue (near the BOE Annex). Work to date has been on Route 10, but by early October the work on Route 10 will be complete and the focus will be on Woodford Avenue. It is anticipated that the project will be finished by the beginning of November.



## Social Services Programs

- ⇒ **CT Energy Assistance Programs:** The State of Connecticut can help certain households pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, and gas), if those households meet certain federal poverty income guidelines and limited asset tests. For the upcoming 2013-2014 winter season, you may call Avon Social Services to see if you qualify for an appointment (regardless of whether you are a new or returning applicant). The Department strongly encourages clients to apply for Energy Assistance as early as possible, as the Department's ability to provide emergency fuel deliveries through the Avon Fuel Bank will be extremely limited this winter season! If you would like more information on this program, please visit the Town website, under the Social Services link "[Energy Assistance & Renters' Rebate](#)," or contact the Social Services Office at (860) 409-4346 with any questions.
- ⇒ **Operation Fuel:** Operation Fuel provides one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who may be slightly over the income/assets threshold for government programs (like the one listed above). More information is usually available by November or December each year through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.
- ⇒ **Family to Family Education Program:** NAMI (Nat'l Assoc. of Mental Illness) is offering a free, twelve-week course for family caregivers of individuals with severe mental illness. The course is taught by trained family members and all instruction and course materials are free to class participants. The classes began Tuesday, September 17, 2013 and run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the West Avon Congregational Church, 280 Country Club Road in Avon. Please contact Janet, at (860) 620-7717, to register or obtain additional information.



## Fellow Dogs (and Dog Lovers)!

Fall is here, my fellow canines! And, with Avon's bountiful trails and beautiful open spaces calling to us and our two-legged companions to recreate, now is the perfect time to remind everyone to be courteous of others as we enjoy the sights and sounds in and around our lovely and spacious park areas. We need to be sure that our owners know and follow the rules, so that everyone – no matter how many legs they have – can continue to recreate in harmony in Avon's public spaces. So, my fellow four-legged comrades, the next time you see your owner grab the leash and head toward the door, be sure to remind them that dogs are only permitted in public parks so long as they're on a leash that is less than six-feet in length (Town Ordinance 41-24), and that dogs are prohibited on school property (BOE Policy 7020). Also, let's make sure our owners remember to pick-up after we do our business...



Sincerely,

Mr. Paws

## Senior Center Event

On Friday, November 8, 2013 at 12:00 p.m., the Avon and Canton Senior Centers will join together to honor and celebrate our Veterans. We will enjoy a delicious meal and fantastic entertainment. The event will cost \$2.00; please pay when you sign up. The event will be held at the Avon Senior Center. You can sign up in person or by calling the Avon Senior Center at (860) 675-4355.



## Why Get Permits & Inspections?

There are many important reasons to obtain the required building permit(s) and to obtain the required inspections for your construction project! Here are a few.

**Helps Protect Property Value:** Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the Connecticut State Building Code, the value of your investment could be reduced.



**Saves Money:** Property insurers may not cover work or damages caused by work done without permits or inspections.

**Makes Selling Property Easier:** With recent CT legislation [CGS 20 (327) b], a Residential Condition Report must be completed when selling a home. The owner is required to disclose any improvements or repairs made and whether permits, inspections, and/or zoning approval were obtained. Many financial institutions will not finance a purchase without proof of a final inspection. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or do costly repairs.

**Improves Safety:** Your permit allows the Building Official to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction to provide for public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, and your friends or future owners. Mandatory inspections complement the contractor's experience and act as a system of checks and balances resulting in a safer project.

**It's the Law:** Work requiring permits is determined by Connecticut General Statute. Work without a permit may be subject to removal or other costly remedies. Other State regulations require the local Building Official to validate that contractors have the proper trade license, Home Improvement Contractor registration, and appropriate insurance, before issuing the Building Permit. All permits require at least one inspection and final closure; it is the responsibility of the contractor or property owner to request the necessary inspections.

**When to Get Permits:** The Building Code requires permits for any alteration to either the interior or exterior of a building, including, but not limited to, finishing a basement or attic for habitable use, constructing decks and storage sheds, swimming pools, re-roof covering, window replacement, new siding, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs (other than minor routine maintenance). If in doubt or to determine if a building permit is required for your particular project, please contact the Building Department at (860) 409-4316.



## Avon Reads

**Avon Reads:** A one book event, featuring The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot, launches in January 2014. Read, explore, learn, and connect with the themes of this book through a series of lectures and films that begin in early 2014. Meet members of the Lacks family on March 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center. Copies of the book are available at the Avon Library.





## FY 2014/2015 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2014/2015 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2014. All town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents who would like to attend the meetings (at which the details of the budget are discussed) may be interested in the following announcements.

**Capital Budget Presentations:** All to be held in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main

Street, on the following dates and times:

November 14th - 7:00 p.m.

November 20th - 7:00 p.m.

December 12th - 7:00 p.m.

**Operating Budget Workshop:** This is traditionally an all day meeting held in February in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall. Look in your January issue of the Newsletter for the date. The complete budget calendar is available on-line at: [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us).

## Who's Who?

**Glenn Grube, Library Director** - Glenn was appointed as Director of the Avon Free Public Library last December. For the previous 12 years, Glenn was the Automated Services Librarian for West Hartford Public Libraries, where he managed technology, technical services and circulation for West Hartford's three libraries. Glenn holds a Masters of Library Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a Bachelors of English degree from Trinity College. He has worked in public and special libraries throughout Connecticut for more than 20 years, and looks forward to bringing his experience and expertise to the beautifully renovated Avon Library. Glenn lives in the Pine Meadow section of New Hartford with his two daughters, Genevieve (12) and Vivienne (9), and two cats.

**Patricia Valsecchi, Circulation & Outreach Services Manager** - The Avon Free Public Library welcomes Patricia Valsecchi as the new Circulation & Outreach Services Manager. Patricia was the Community Services Director of the Woodbridge Town Library in Woodbridge, CT for seven years prior to her move to AFPL. She received her MLIS from Simmons College in Boston, MA, and also has a BS in Broadcasting & Film from Boston University. Patricia is a huge movie buff, and her favorite authors include David Sedaris, James Michener, Beverly Cleary, and Jane Yolen. She and her husband Nick live in beautiful Litchfield County with two very sassy cats.

**Mathew Mageau, Communications Dispatcher** - The Town is pleased to welcome Mathew Mageau, a new Avon Police Department Communications Dispatcher. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science from the University of Connecticut, Mathew chose to pursue other interests, working as an Emergency Medical Technician in the Southern Central area of Connecticut. Looking for an advanced opportunity to utilize his experience, Mr. Mageau recently accepted a position as a Communications Dispatcher. In his spare time, Mathew keeps active, enjoying sports and outdoor activities. An avid motorcycle and automobile enthusiast, he can usually be found turning a wrench or out cruising around. We welcome Mathew Mageau to his new position within the Town of Avon and wish him the best of luck.

## Holiday Gift Basket Programs



We would like to remind everyone in the community that the Social Services Department will soon start collecting donations for the upcoming holiday season in order to help Avon families in need of financial support. Please join us again! **The Drop-Off Day for Thanksgiving is Monday, November 25, 2013**, at St. Ann's Catholic Church (Avon Food Pantry), and the **Winter Basket Drop-Off Day is Friday, December 20, 2013**, at the same location.

For more information about our **Holiday Gift Basket Program**, please call the Avon Youth Services Department at (860) 409-4396 or Jim Martino at (860) 673-3179.



## Dates to Remember for the November Election

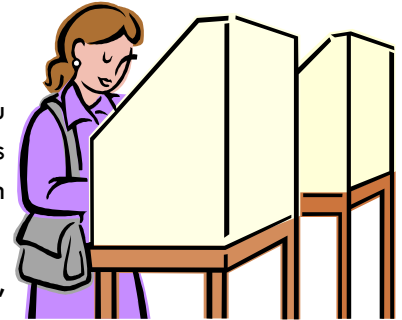
**October 4, 2013** - Absentee ballots became available in the Town Clerk's Office. If you need an absentee ballot, you may pick up an application and ballot at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours, or call (860) 409-4310 to request that an application be mailed to you.

**October 19, 2013** - Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to register voters.

**October 29, 2013** - Last day to register to vote **in person** to be eligible to vote on November 5, 2013. The Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to register voters. Any questions regarding voter registration should be directed to the Registrars of Voters at (860) 409-4350.

**November 4, 2013** - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot. Last day to register to vote in person (between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) **if** your qualifications as to age, citizenship, or residence were attained **after** October 29, 2013.

**November 5, 2013 (Election Day)** - The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See back page of the Newsletter for polling locations.



## Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) News

### Annual Halloween Parade October 26<sup>th</sup> at Pine Grove School

The AVFD, in cooperation with the Avon Recreation & Park Department, will present "A Halloween Parade" for pre-school through fifth grade children (and their parents) on Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at Pine Grove Elementary School, 151 Scoville Road in Avon. The event will feature entertainment by Christina the Magician as well as prizes, games, refreshments, and goodie bags. Children are asked to come dressed in their favorite costumes. Tickets are \$6 each (children under 18 months old receive free admission) and are available for purchase from the AVFD via mail only until October 21, 2013. An order form can be downloaded and printed from the AVFD's website at [www.avonvfd.org](http://www.avonvfd.org).

### Avon Volunteer Fire Department to Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Toss the Dough" Fundraiser

The AVFD will hold its Second Annual "Toss the Dough" fundraiser on Thursday, October 24, 2013, from 5-9 p.m. at Bertucci's, located at 380 West Main Street in Avon. Food and beverages will be served by AVFD members. Hungry diners can watch Bertucci's chefs toss the dough and cook pizzas in the brick oven (and toss some of their own dough toward the AVFD). Only by supplementing the budget it receives from the Town can the AVFD remain a volunteer department. Bertucci's will also donate a portion of the evening's proceeds to the Department.

#### ANNUAL REPORT & TOWN CALENDAR DELIVERY

Residents are reminded that the Annual Report will not be mailed to households. A limited number will be available at the Town Hall, the Library, and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up by December 4, 2013.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, CALL STEVE BARTHA, ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER, AVON TOWN HALL, AT (860) 409-4300.



## DPW Snow Removal & Ice Control Operations and Guidelines

**General:** Avon Public Works is charged with the responsibility of responding to winter snow and ice events. Our goal is to keep streets passable and reasonably safe during the storm and to clear the streets, curb to curb, within 8 to 12 hours after the storm has ended. Our plow drivers work long hours in hazardous driving conditions, and we appreciate your patience during snow and ice events.

**Snow Routes:** The 112 miles of town roads (approximate) maintained by DPW are divided into 11 snow plow routes.



One plow truck and driver is assigned to each plow route for the entire winter season.

**Priorities:** During snow events, the primary focus is to provide a safe travel way for cars and emergency vehicles on heavily traveled roadways. While snow is actively falling, plowing is generally limited to the center portion of the roadway to clear a path wide enough for one travel lane in each direction. As a winter storm subsides, more efforts can be directed to local roadways and cul-de-sacs. Depending on the severity of a storm, it can take up to 4 hours +/- to make passes on all streets in town. Snow removal often continues for 8 to 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

**Mail Box Damage:** During the winter season, it is inevitable that some mailboxes and posts will be damaged during winter plowing operations. Avon's policy is to reimburse residents \$20.00 for mailboxes and \$65.00 for posts that are damaged as a result of direct contact with a Town snow plow. Mailboxes that are damaged from the force of snow thrown against them or mailboxes that are located closer than 9-inches to the roadway are not eligible for reimbursement.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**I live on a cul-de-sac and end up with significant amounts of snow in my driveway. Why?** Plowing cul-de-sacs is one of the most challenging operations during a snow storm. Most properties on cul-de-sacs have frontages that are narrower than lots on a straight street. Therefore, snow must be pushed into a smaller space.

**Why is snow pushed into my driveway by street plows?** It is unavoidable and it is not done intentionally. Snow cast into driveways is an unfortunate byproduct of a very necessary service we provide. When we plow a street, we are simply moving the snow that is in the street off to the side of the street. The greater the amount of snow, the more snow that is deposited on the side.

**Who is responsible for clearing in front of my mailbox?** We plow the streets curb to curb, or as close as we can get. Whatever snow is left in front of mailboxes is the responsibility of the property owner to remove (or at least to move in order for the mailbox to be accessible to the mail carrier).

**Can I, as a resident, push snow from my property onto the sidewalk or street? NO!** Town Ordinance restricts the act of pushing snow back onto a street and doing so may result in a fine of \$50 and/or liability if an accident is caused by this dumping of snow. Please be respectful of passing motorists expecting a clear street by not putting snow back onto the street. Remember, if you contract for snow removal, you are still responsible for where the snow ends up.

**The Farmington Valley Arts Center (FVAC)** is offering fall art classes in many mediums, with new instructors, new classes and new pricing. Classes run for 8 weeks, starting September 23rd, at 2 to 3 hours per week. Registration is open and payment is due at the time of registration. Classes require a minimum of 5 participants; if the class is canceled due to lack of enrollment, you will receive a full refund. If class is canceled due to inclement weather or any unforeseen emergency during the 8 weeks, it will be rescheduled. Visit us at: <http://artsfvac.org>.

**ISSUE XLI**  
**October 2013**

Avon Town Council  
Town of Avon  
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Avon, CT 06001

Phone: (860) 409-4300  
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[www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us)



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## **IMPORTANT DATE**

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

**6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Absentee Ballots will be available.**

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the  
Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310.**

**District #1**—Avon High School  
510 West Avon Road  
Gymnasium

**District #2**—Fire House Co. #1  
25 Darling Drive  
Upper Level

**District #3**—Roaring Brook School  
30 Old Wheeler Lane  
Gymnasium